WRL News

Number 200 The War Resisters League May-June 1977

THE SEABROOK DEMO

Photo by Grace Hedemann

by Jerry Coffin

This photo shows members of the New York City "339" affinity group preparing to march onto the site of the Seabrook nuclear power plant. When we arrived there, we established an occupation camp at the construction site of what is intended to be a two billion dollar nuclear power complex. Our goal was to block construction of the plant. Since nuclear power and nuclear weapons are twin evils, the WRL was at Seabrook.

The Seabrook nuclear power plant is being built by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSC), a privately owned utility company. The nuclear power site is about 700 acres and is located on seacoast salt marches. The land was purchased by a variety of PSC front corporations over a period of years. The property was assembled under a holding company and a permit to construct the plant was granted in June of 1976.

The plant site is located on a known earthquake fault. The discharge of water used to cool the plant will raise the temperature of surrounding water sufficiently to seriously damage local shellfish. Couple those facts with the dangers associated with operation and nuclear waste disposal common to all nuclear power plants and common sense dictated *no nuke*. However, common sense lost to corporate greed and construction of the plant was begun.

A group of New Hampshire people came together to oppose the construction of the Seabrook plant. On August 1, 1976 eighteen people were arrested for committing nonviolent civil disobedience by attempting to occupy the site and prevent construction. On August 22, 180 people were arrested for the same reason.

While direct action was taking place, community opposition to the plant grew. There have been two non-binding referendums where the people of Seabrook voted *against* the PSC nuclear power plant. With this background the New England organization leading the anti-nuclear fight, the Clamshell Alliance, issued a call for a mass nonviolent occupation of the Seabrook site.

Participants in the occupation were required to be part of an "affinity group", commit themselves to a policy of nonviolence, be prepared for arrest and participate ahead of time in nonviolent training. Decision making was to be by an assembly of spokespeople appointed by each affinity group. Affinity groups were defined as any manageable size group who know each other and have shared experiences such as the nonviolent training sessions. The occupiers were required to be self-sufficient with food for eight days and shelter.

The plan was to assemble on Friday, April 29, at camp sites assigned by region and then walk four directions to the site and occupy. The Clamshell Alliance was hoping for 1800 people, ten times the number of the most recent occupiers, a hundred times the number of the first occupiers.

I joined the New York Affinity Group No. 339. The group was made up of WRL staffers Grace and Ed Hedemann, myself from the WRL Executive Committee, *WIN* Magazine staff members Peg Averill, Susan Pines and Murray Rosenblith, several other WRL members and a group from the Catholic Worker. The Group designation number was in honor of the street address of the Peace Pentagon, 339 Lafayette Street.

After braving a dawn departure from New York, assorted mechanical problems on the way to New Hampshire, spending Friday night at a campsite

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NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Photo by Ed Hedemann

by Steve Sumerford

Led by four marchers in clerical robes carrying a replica of an electric chair, the first contingent of a nationwide Easter march and rally against capital punishment heads up Atlanta's Auburn Street toward the State Capitol. They were followed by a contingent of silent marchers, led by mothers of prisoners facing the death penalty. Participants in that contingent carried placards bearing the names of 342 prisoners durrently on death row across the country. Persons in the last contingent carried signs with anti-capital punishment slogans and chanted.

There were some 2,000 marchers, having come from as far away as New Orleans, Chicago and New York. Highlights of the rally, on the capitol steps, were a dramatic speech by Tom Wicker, New York Times columnist pointing out that the capital punishment issue cannot be divorced from the gross economic inequities of The System, which cause crime; a talk by Wilbert Pitts, who spent 13 years on death row in Florida for a crime he didn't commit and a moving statement from Viva Lamb, mother of a prisoner on Georgia's death row. Other speakers included Jarry Paul, attorney for Joanne Little, Ralph Abernathy and Ramsey Clark.

The demonstration ended with an Easter Sunday sunrise service opposite the Capitol.

SEABROOK

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covered in poison ivy, New York 339 joined with others at our campsite on Saturday April 30 and walked with packs of food and shelter four miles to the construction site. There we were met by a second column from another campsite. Joining forces we walked down the access road onto the construction area and established camp on the parking lot adjacent to the center of construction activity. The actual construction space had been fenced and was guarded by contigents of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island state police, local police from the surrounding area and New Hampshire National Guard. In total there were about 350 law enforcement personnel.

Shortly after our arrival, a third column arrived from a march over the salt marshes and a fourth group arrived after having been ferried across the bay by friendly lobster fishermen. Our best estimate was that 2500 people occupied the site on Saturday, April 30

By Sunday the group had thinned a bit. It looked as if New Hampshire Governor Meldrim Thomson would allow the occupation to continue, at least until the occupiers had dwindled to a manageable core group. Meldrim Thomson is a moss back reactionary who had predicted violence and called this band of deeply committed nonviolent civil disobedients a " cover for terrorist activity". He is, in short, the ideal opponent for the practitioners of nonviolence. When he ordered the arrest of the demonstrators on Sunday, May 1, it was a classic demonstration of the moral ju jitsu of nonviolence. Had he let the demonstrators sit, the media would have become bored, the natural elements would have done their work on that hot, dusty parking lot campground driving away participants and the entire event would have been "just another demonstration." Instead, the Governor who predicted (desired?) violence got nonviolence. He confronted and arrested more than 1400 people who enjoyed strong community and statewide support and then didn't know what to do with his prisoners. "Just another demonstration" turned into a national morality play on the issue of the nuclear game.

Our affinity group, being the first arrested, were able to keep together throughout the arrest, booking, and detention process. We all wound up together at the Somersworth National Guard Armory. Affinity groups found each other, those who had been separated from their group got together and formed new groups, spokespersons from affinity groups started meeting and the 220 detainees crowded into the Armory became a resistance community.

The full story will be written when the hundreds of people still in jail are released.

WIN Magazine has devoted a special issue to coverage of the events of the first week following the occupation of Seabrook. (Copies available for 30¢.) One thing, however, is already clear. The bonds formed in the various detention facilities form a large core of activist opposition to the nuclear weapons/nuclear power mentality and the chant of *NO NUKES* which frequently reverberated in New Hampshire armories will get louder and louder as more voices join to stop the construction of nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons.

WRI COUNCIL REPORT

by David McReynolds

From April through 11 the Council of War Resisters International met in Vlotho, Germany. This is the annual meeting and while I don't have the minutes yet (there has been no time for staff to prepare and translate them), this is a brief report. Fourteen countries were represented, including India, Spain, and Argentina, with two U.S. representatives, Beverly Woodward who is WRL's section representative, and myself as an elected member of Council.

The council meetings are not a holiday—though I enjoy the travel and had two days in Brussels on the way to Vlotho, and a 24 hour stopover in Iceland on the way back. The Council sessions begin at 9 a.m. and run through to 6 p.m. for a full week. There are breaks throughout the day because the interpreters cannot work at simultaneous interpretation for more than two hours or so at a time, and the evenings are "free"—which means they are taken up with committee work. Usually there is some nearby pub to which the weary Council repairs of an evening to recover from the day's work, but Vlotho, itself a small town, was three icy miles from the Collegium Humanum—the small conference center where we met. Long walks were impossible because the German Easter came with a week of snow and rain. But the sense of isolation (I had looked forward to seeing Germany, which I'd not visited since 1951; and ended up looking pretty much at the insides of one building for a week) was unimportant. The high drama for the Council came with the admission of the Catalonian (Spanish) section to WRI. This is the first time since Franco that WRI has been legal in Spain and after the long and bitter years of the Franco regime, and the struggle for support to the Spanish pacifists who, even under Franco, had resisted, the presence of a young man and woman—vital, alive, highly committed and political—was dramatic. There at the same table sat three veterans of the Nazi occupation of Holland who had been active in the nonviolent anti-Fascist resistance—and two young people from Catalonia. It was a moment of victory and rejoicing. The Council voted unanimously to hold the Triennial Conference next year in Spain—hopefully in Barcelona. (The Triennial is the International Conference of WRI—the Council meets in the years when the Triennial is not held.)

This photo, taken at the WRI Council meeting, shows two veterans of the anti-Nazi pacifist underground in Holland, flanked by two youthful veterans of the anti-Franco pacifist underground in Catalonia. Photo by David McReynolds

Relations with our other pacifist international—the International Fellowship of Reconciliation—are strained. After several years of closer relationships, including the sharing of joint offices in Brussels, the IFOR moved to Holland without more than prefunctory consultation "after the fact" with the WRI. Some, including myself, who have argued strongly for a single, united pacifist international feel that IFOR—which is the weaker of the two internationals—is going through a period of re-examining its religious roots and that it will be several years before they will feel secure enough to begin moving back toward unity. The other political disappointment was the the main German section, which has a somewhat pro-Moscow orientation, boycotted the Council meeting even though it was held in Germany (one representative was present for two days). Again, things move slowly in international work and one must hope the main German section will move, in the next period, toward closer cooperation with the International. These things cannot be forced, even though they must be frankly faced.

After extended discussion the Council voted to adopt disarmament as the main theme for 1978, to issue a call to all the sections to relate to the issue, to stress the unilateral political position, and to use the UN General Assembly as the basis for actions throughout the world. (There will be a UN General Assembly on Disarmament in May or June of next year.) However there was deep concern with the Human Rights issue, particularly in view of the extremely serious situation facing the pacifist movement in Latin America (during the Council sessions word was received that one of the key pacifist leaders had been arrested in Buenos Aires). The Council has urged the various sections of WRI to mobilize in support of the movement in Latin America and Beverly Woodward, who deserves special

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WRL/FOR CONSULTATION

Late last year WRL suggested to the Fellowship of Reconciliation that it would be helpful to have a joint consultation on program. FOR accepted and hosted a day-long meeting at Nyack, New York, which brought together WRL's staff and steering committee with the FOR staff. This was the first such consultation but both groups felt it very helpful and might well need to be an annual event, since these are the two largest pacifist groups in the U.S. FOR operates from a religious basis, while WRL is secular.

The day was spent reviewing the programs of the two groups, and looking at ways of possible cooperation, particularly on the area of disarmament, a primary concern for both organizations. It was agreed that additional and broader consultation was needed to include persons in the American Friends Service Committee, Movement for a New Society, Peacemakers, and other groups with a clear nonviolent orientation.

INDIA—A Dictatorship Defeated

by Anand Patwardhan

(Patwardhan is a young Indian film maker whose WAVES OF REVOLUTION is being distributed by WRL.)

March 1977 will long be remembered as the month in which the Indian people struck a historical blow against the fascistic methods perpetrated by its ruling class. And yet, the ruling class rules in India.

The defeat at the polls of Indira Gandhi, her son Sanjay and the stunning rout of the Congress Party—a party which had enjoyed 30 years of uninterrupted power since India's independence—has proven to the world that the Indian people, oppressed as they are, will not tolerate the abuse of their dignity. They have shown courage and wisdom in opting for the path that offered them a greater share of their democratic rights.

The question remains—how great will this share be?

India before the declaration of Emergency Rule in June 1975 was regarded by many as the "largest democracy in the world." This was a misconception. For India since Independence, has been ruled by an elite class; big landlords, big capitalists and a state bureaucracy largely representing the interests of these two forces. Automatically, the rights of landless peasants, untouchables, workers, small farmers, and the petty bourgeousie have been given a secondary place if not altogether ignored.

Those who attempted to organize these weaker sections to struggle for their rights were brutalized by the state machinery.

The Telangana movement originating in Southern India in the late 40's and the Nacalite movement originating in West Bengal of the late 60's are two examples where thousands of revolutionaries were jailed, tortured or killed while fighting for the rights of the poor.

The 1974 railway strike gave the State another opportunity to unleash their official terror on the working class.

The Bihar Movement (also known as the J.P. Movement) of 1974-75 saw a further continuation of the same process.

Whether a movement was violent or nonviolent, wherever a threat appeared to the stability of the rulers, every step necessary was taken to curb it.

The declaration of Emergency in June 1975—the mass arrest of revolutionaries and the arrest of political opponents of the Congress Party; the banning of strikes and the suspension of the right of assembly; the introduction of press censorship; the campaign of forced sterilization blatantly carried out against the poor; the bulldozing of slums and uprooting of slum dwellers; the amending of the Constitution to legally deprive people of their fundamental rights—marked the climax of a process that had been building in the country since Independence.

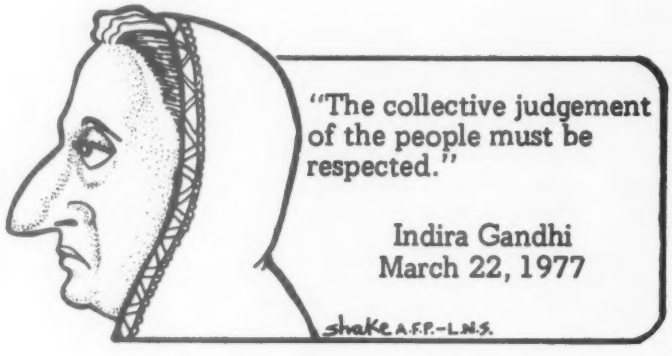
Street Journal in an article entitled "India On The Move" wrote: "India is now in the first stages of economic rejuvenation ."

The early period of the Emergency had been preceded by good rains which resulted in temporarily reducing the rate of inflation in the country.

By 1977 however the inevitable inflation had begun to catch up with the government.

The campaign of forced sterilization and that of the uprooting of slum dwellers had led the oppressed people into combat with the police. Over 300 people were killed in various encounters throughout the country. The word was rapidly spreading that the traditional oppression of the poor was taking on a more brutal garb than ever before.

The working people and peasantry



During the Emergency, the Congress Party with the support of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) embarked on a systematic process of enacting a rightist programme using leftist rhetoric.

The climate for foreign investment visibly improved, the rich were given tax rebates and the banning of strikes, retrenchment of workers and cancellation of bonus owed to workers helped the industrialists and the businessmen.

While links with the Soviet Union became stronger, the U.S. was not displaced either. On April 4, 1976 the *Wall*

gave several indications that they would fight this new oppression with any means necessary.

Sections of the Indian public, most notably workers of the Gandhian Sarvodaya movement and followers of Jayaprakash Narayan, had all through the Emergency organized Satyagraha campaigns and other forms of protest in an effort to fill jails and build the consciousness of the people to fight the ruling dictatorship.

The Opposition parties, hitherto divided, had united in the same cause.

International public opinion was

being increasingly focused on the plight of political prisoners in India.

Friction was developing between the CPI and the Congress primarily because the CPI leadership could not keep pace with its rank and file without being critical of Congress policies from time to time.

It was in this climate, confident that the myth of economic "gains" and the fear syndrome associated with the Emergency could still see her through to victory, that Mrs. Gandhi held the elections of March 1977. To have waited longer would have reduced her chances of success. The choice was between holding elections immediately or never again. With her penchant for keeping up a facade of constitutionality, she chose the former.

The verdict of the people was overwhelming. The Congress Party was reduced from a two-thirds majority in Parliament to less than a third. The Janata Party and its allies secured a two-thirds majority instead.

In choosing the Janata Party and its allies over the Congress-CPI alliance, the people of India had exercised a negative prerogative. They opted for the former as being the only visibly organized opposition to the latter.

A cursory glance at the constituents of the Janata Party reveals that once more it is the big landlords and capitalists who are represented in power. The Socialist Party is admittedly a junior partner in the coalition at the center but their power will be severely restricted by the numerically superior forces of the right.

Perhaps the most heartening fact of all is that undeniably the climate for civil liberties has improved in India. The new rulers are at least temporarily sensitive to the demand that democratic rights be restored and are verbally committed to the release of *all* political prisoners.

Many prisoners of all hues have indeed been released. There are however close to 30,000 political prisoners branded as "Nacalites" or "undertrials" who have been in State jails for anything between 2 and 9 years.

The period leading into the Emergency, the period of the Emergency itself, and the period of its subsequent defeat, have all contributed to a general heightening of the political consciousness of the people. Aspirations to both bread and freedom have been raised.

The credibility of the new government will rest of several factors —the release of *all* political prisoners notwithstanding the fact that many of these prisoners face trumped up criminal charges; the immediate enactment of land distribution measures; the restriction of the growth of monopoly capital and conspicuous consumption of the rich; the restriction on the reliance on foreign powers such as the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.; the mediation of disputes in favor of the working class and poor peasantry instead of the traditional bias of the legal system towards the rich; and finally, the xxxxxxx of priorities of public spending towards providing essential goods and services to the rural and urban poor.

Yes, the elections in India have provided the progressive world with a moment of jubilation. And yet we cannot pause long enough to celebrate. We cannot forget the bitter lesson of 1947 when the void left by one oppressor, the British, was filled by another, the Indian bourgeousie.

Today new leaders emerge whose claim to leadership lies in that they were jailed by the old leaders. Left rhetoric is replaced by Gandhian rhetoric. But it is still the rich and powerful who are in power. For a time they cannot embark on the road to fascism and in this lies the extent of the victory of the people.

But the road to socialism, true freedom and justice is a long and hard one. The courage and wisdom demonstrated by the people in these elections bodes well for the struggle that lies ahead. Meanwhile continued vigilance, the building of grassroots organizations of the poor, and the resort to extra-parliamentary protest when parliament fails, are as important today as they were during the Emergency.

200TH ISSUE

Photo by David McReynolds

This is the 200th issue of *WRL NEWS*. The above photo shows volunteers and staff members working on the mailing of the 199th issue. In the foreground are 3 volunteers who have worked on many a mailing over the years—David Berkingoff, Virginia Eggleston and Prafulla Mukerji. Standing up at left is Richard Clemmer. At the rear are Jim Peck, longtime editor, and 2 other staff members—Ralph DiGia and Karl Bissinger. Two longtime volunteers NOT in the photo are Tom Grabell and Joan Todd. Contemporary volunteers NOT in the photo include Kathy Barnier, Martin Breecher, Joan Durant, Jim Moss, Anna Shopira, Erika Weihs, Molly Wilson and Monica Zullo.

The first issue of *WRL NEWS* (its predecessor was *THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR*) came out on Sept. 13, 1945, a little over a month after the U.S. made history, in the most notorious sense, by dropping the first nuclear weapon on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second one was unleashed on Nagasaki.

Lead item in that first issue said: "The atom was the subject of the main discussion at our August executive committee meeting. The bomb and the sudden ending of the war found the committee determined 'with renewed energy' to 'pursue its objective of the abolition of war.'" Another major item told about a meeting with Attorney General Tom Clark Lazarus urged amnesty for war resisters of world war 2. This first issue of *WRL NEWS* was a mere 5½ × 8½ single sheet mimeographed on both sides. Current issues are printed, illustrated with photos and range from 6 to 8 pages.

Mobilization for Survival

by Ed Hedemann

Over the past three years since the winding down of the Indochina War, disarmament has risen to the top of the agenda for the peace movement. This has not occured simply disarmament was the focus of the pre-Vietnam peace movement, nor because there is no other important issue around which action can be mobilized.

It is because disarmament means *survival*. It is because disarmament *graphically* relates the threat of nuclear obliteration with the struggle for basic human needs (rebuild our cities, feed the people, jobs for all, equal opportunity); it relates the oppression of people in third world countries with the U.S. military bases in 26 countries; it relates the proliferation of nuclear weapons with the growth of nuclear power plants; it relates the inflationary waste in our society with the virtually uncontrollable spending on the military.

In 1961 before the escalation of the Vietnam War, the seriousness of the arms race was such that both the United States and the Soviet Union were on record favoring "general and complete disarmament". At that time the movement for disarmament ("ban the bomb", CNVA projects, etc.) was at its peak strength in the public consciousness. The Vietnam War shifted the focus and energies of the peace movement away from disarmament, and the United States has not publicly backed disarmament since that time.

A resurgence of the disarmament movement with the experiences of anti-Indochina War organizing provides a potential for seriously affecting the arms race and how Federal funds are allocated. The Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice followed by President Carter's statements favoring nuclear disarmament helped set the stage for the planned disarmament campaign. The Walk helped popularize the term and concept of "disarmament", and Carter gave it an "air of legitimacy" with the general public. Participants in the meeting from WRL included chairperson Norma Becker, Executive Committee people William Douthard, Sybil Claiborne, Ann Davidon, national Staffperson David McReynolds, and WRL/West staffperson Steve Ladd.

With all this in mind 120 people from 14 states and 44 organizations met April 23 in Philadelphia to lay the ground work for a year long disarmament campaign.

Sidney lens can be held responsible for the initial theoretical input (e.g., "The Doomsday Strategy", *Progressive*, February 1976) and prodding to get people actively involved in meetings planning this campaign. Norma Becker, working with others arranged for a meeting on March 12 in New York City where 50 people met to discuss the possibilities of a disarmament coalition. This meeting debated themes for the coalition, proposed a tentative timetable of actions, and called for a broader meeting on April 23. Two continuation committee meetings and a working group composed of Norma, Terry Provance, Jeanne Kaylor, and Pat Conway worked on details and arrangements for the 23rd.

ON TAX DAY . . .

Photo by Larry Gara

. . . as war tax resisters demonstrated at IRS offices across the country, Barbara Reynolds (left), crew member of PHOENIX, second vessel to sail for the Pacific nuclear test area in 1958, and Beth Mullen (right) participated in a vigil at the federal building in Wilmington, Ohio. Ernest and Marion Bromley, pioneers in the war tax resistance movement, joined the picket line at IRS in New York, where they went to accept WRL's 17th annual peace award.

The April 23 meeting began with reports from regional organizers, primarily from the West Coast representatives. Activity in the West revolves around the U.C. Weapons Lab Conversion Project in the Bay Area, the anti-B-1 Bomber and Trident submarine actions in the Northwest, and the Transfer Amendment and anti-nuclear power plant educational drive in Southern California. The rest of the agenda was devoted to alternating plenary presentations with small discussion groups followed by reports back to the plenary.

Three major areas were dealt with: politics of the proposed campaign, suggested actions, and implementation. Sid Lens and Sid Peck reviewed th origins of the current campaign, the urgency of disarmament, and the need to take to the streets. The basic themes revolve around three main points: 1) stop the arms race and eliminate nuclear weapons as a first step towards total disarmament, 2) transfer funds from the military to the cities and people for basic survival, and 3) the elimination of nuclear power plants is essential to stop nuclear weapons proliferation.

The main discussion or disagreements centered around questions of nuclear disarmament versus total disarmament, the need for more specific political goals, the desireability for greater emphasis on making connections with domestic issues (such as jobs), and the wording of slogans and name for the campaign.

The action program is composed of four basic parts:

August 6-9, 1977: "kick off" demonstrations around the country focussing on nuclear weapons

early November 1977: college and community teach-ins within a 7 to 10 day period on disarmament, followed by a mass action

March 15, 1978: "Save Our Cities" Day focussing on community needs, lobbying city councils to take a stand against the arms race

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Photo by Karl Bissinger

BROMLEY'S GET PEACE AWARD

Marion and Ernest Bromley accept the WRL's 17th annual peace award at the League's annual dinner. The scroll which Ernest is holding describes him and Marion as "guiding spirits in the Peacemakers Movement and pioneers in organizing war tax resistance."

Making the presentation were Wally and Juanita Nelson, who lived for many years in the Bromley home, which in 1975 was threatened with seizure by the IRS. (The IRS finally backed down when faced with the prospect of simultaneous sitins at the home and at IRS headquarters in Washington.) The Nelsons, like the Bromleys, are lifelong war tax resisters.

WRI COUNCIL REPORT

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credit for her work in that area, will make sure that WRL pays attention to this. In addition a strong statement was adopted affirming support for non-violent dissenters and socialists in the East European states and the Soviet Union.

The Council said goodbye to two Americans who had served on staff—Kate Sheehan and Geoffrey Pope—and welcome the new American intern, Tori Rodin. Since Tori is already able to speak French, she starts with an advantage (the office of WRI is in Brussels and staff must be bi-lingual). Kate and Geoff will be leaving in June, having picked up French after coming to Europe. As a personal note, friends of Devi Prasad will be delighted to know that he was married immediately after the meeting of the Council, on April 14, in London.

CHARTER FLIGHT FOR HIROSHIMA WALKERS

Those who already have volunteered for the Tokyo-Hiroshima Peace Walk have been booked on a charter flight at $590 roundtrip leaving Los Angeles July 2 and returning August 15. If the total of volunteers, now 50, reaches 100, the coordinating committee will be able to charter an entire plane, reducing the cost to $450 roundtrip.

Persons interested in participating should contact the coordinating committee c/o Nipponzan Myhoji, 308 West Yanonali, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101. All expenses in Japan will be paid. The American walkers have been invited by the Japanese who participated in the 1976 Continental Walk for Disarmament & Social Justice.

GIVES WRL PINS TO TOP STUDENTS IN PEACE COURSE

"Please rush 10 broken rifle pins so that I may give them as tokens of recognition to my most interested Peace Education students."

This order was dispatched to the WRL office by Grace Abrams, a teacher at Miami Beach Senior High Community School.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the **war resisters league**.

signature.....

address.....

city.....

state.....zip code.....

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

MOBILIZATION

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May and June 1978: actions all around the country and in other countries focussing on the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament; climaxed by a mass demonstration in New York City, perhaps involving civil disobedience.

Great emphasis was put on making the May 1978 actions *dramatic* so as to focus maximum attention on the issues. A fifth workshop brainstormed other action ideas.

The final section of the program dealt with implementation. A continuous committee of about 40 people was approved by the meeting to deal with the details of program, politics, national conference, outreach, office, and staff. The continuations committee is scheduled to meet May 15 in New York City. The basic structure of the campaign is to maintain a minimal national office with emphasis on regional and local autonomy. Those interested in participating in this campaign should get in touch with WRL.

A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Several years ago in seeking to find a way to establish a lasting tribute to A.J. Muste, there was established the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute—a tax exempt Institute whose activities would cover a range from publishing pacifist literature to arranging forums on political topics, from maintaining a library to pacifist materials to funding project, seminars, workshops to spread the pacifist position. Tax deductible contributions payable to A.J. Muste Memorial Institute should be sent to 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

BACK ISSUES OF NEWS NEEDED

The national office has found itself in the deplorable situation of only one or none of the following issues of *WRL News:*

#196 September-October 1976
#74 September-October 1955
#139 September-October 1966
#135 January-February 1966
#126 July-August 1964
#125 May-June 1964
#111 January-February 1962
#109 September-October 1961
#106 March-April 1961
#101 May-June 1960

WRL News readers are encouraged to send in spare copies of any of the above issues so that the WRL files will be complete.

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